

27. COMMUNITY WORK SPECIAL PROJECTS – ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

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Corporate Plan Output: Community Services Advocacy and Funding	

The purpose of this report is to seek Board support to Te Whare Roimata for funding the Community Garden Supervisor position. This support would come from the additional funding provided to Community Boards for community worker positions and set aside by the Board for Community Work Special Projects.

The recommendations in this report is in line with –

Community Board Objectives:

Key statement number 2

- Enhance social well being and strengthen communities. And performance measures 8, 19
- Supporting environmentally sound programmes.
- Provide resources to assist community initiatives.

Social Well Being Policy Priorities:

- Engage citizens and communities
- Increase meaningful work

Community Policy Points:

- 1.1 Work with local communities and organisations to increase the capacity of communities.

BACKGROUND

Community Work Special Projects

The Hagley-Ferrymead Community Board allocated the additional \$40,000 received from Council to Community Work Special Projects to give the Board and staff time to identify priorities that could assist the community. In allocating this additional funding to Community Boards Council advised that Community Boards have the same ability to make multi-year funding commitments as the Council Standing Committees and full Council and that where appropriate they should do so to support community groups in their area. Council further advised that the additional funding should be used as a contribution towards the funding of community worker positions within community based organisations on an ongoing basis.

The Advocacy Team has identified three priorities for allocation of this \$40,000. The proposal presented in this report is for a Community Gardens Supervisor working with the local community group, Te Whare Roimata. A further proposal will be presented by the Community Development Adviser, Lynnette Ebborn, in February 2001 recommending that funding be allocated to a Youth position. As the Board is aware, recent research and consultation have identified youth issues as a high priority for Hagley-Ferrymead. Developing Avebury House as a community facility is also a project that will need appropriate resourcing and the Board will receive information on this project early 2001.

Community Gardens

The concept of community gardening as a combined waste reduction and strengthening communities initiative was endorsed by the Council in November 1999 as outlined in the report *'Growing Communities – Organic Resources for Social Needs'*

A joint "Community Gardens Support Group" forum was held on 16 August 2000 to discuss how the Community Boards can best support community gardening in their area. Linda Rutland, Community Board Champion and Jude Pani, Community Advocate attended the forum.

Boards have been encouraged to take an active facilitation role matching known needs with resources available. Recommended actions include a tour of community gardens in the Hagley-Ferrymead area, forming a Community Gardens Subcommittee, supporting existing local community gardens and establishing one new community garden by June 2001.

Report on local progress is expected back to a Community Gardens Support Group forum in February 2001.

The Community Board is touring community gardens in the Hagley-Ferrymead area on 8 December.

PROPOSAL

To assist the Board to achieve the above objectives and realise the expected benefits detailed below it is proposed that support be provided to Te Whare Roimata to fund from the \$40,000 allocated for Community Work Special Projects a salary of \$12,000 for the period December 2000-July 2001 for the Gardens Supervisor position. The Gardens Supervisor manages on a day-to-day basis the Neighbourhood Organic Gardens project which is part of the Te Whare Roimata Income Generation Scheme. Along with the Income Generation Coordinator the Gardens Supervisor is responsible for seeing that the gardens are well run and coordinated, crop planting and planning occurs, worker support and oversight is given, tool maintenance undertaken and liaison occurs between the Food Co-op, Café and retail outlets. A management group oversees the development of this project. It is proposed that a project progress report against the benefits and objectives be provided to the Board early 2001.

EXPECTED BENEFITS

Malcolm McMillan under Taskforce Green funding currently undertakes the Gardens Supervisor position. Taskforce Green provides funding for a one-year period only. The consequence of this has been that the ability to expand the project has been seriously compromised since the worker does not have the opportunity to build on the knowledge gained from the year's employment. It also means that the workers on the project have little continuity of leadership.

Funding of this position would allow an increase in both production and income by obtaining a larger section of land that has a greater security of tenure. At present the Community Advocate is working with Council business units and Te Whare Roimata to secure Council land next to the Linwood Service Centre for the development of a co-operative horticultural programme involving several community groups. Board members who met recently at the Linwood Service Centre with Te Whare Roimata suggested that the Community Advocate make progress on this initiative.

The Gardens Supervisor position is integral to ensuring the continuity and development of the Neighbourhood Organic Gardens Project. This is particularly so with the expected development of Council land.

Te Whare Roimata believe that Malcolm McMillan possesses the appropriate knowledge, teaching ability and leadership skills to enable the Neighbourhood Organic Gardens Project to move to fulfil its obvious income generation potential, notwithstanding the important social benefits it provides for the people involved.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The following documents are available from the Community Advocate on request:

Information on the Neighbourhood Organic Gardens Scheme

Information on Te Whare Roimata

Kaupapa of Te whare Roimata

Growing Communities – Organic Resources for Social Needs

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Board approves the release of \$12,000 of the funds set aside for Community Work Special Projects to support Te Whare Roimata for the Community Garden's Supervisor position. The salary covers the period December 2000 to July 2001.
 2. That Te Whare Roimata report to the Hagley-Ferrymead Community Board in early 2001 on project progress against the objectives and expected benefits.
 3. That the Board gives priority to funding Te Whare Roimata's Income Generation Programme when it allocates Board Project Funds in March 2001.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the Community Advocate's recommendations be adopted.